Tanzanian affairs
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MIXED REACTIONS TO NEW LAND LEGISLATION

The endorsement of two important land bills by the National Assembly on 11 February has generated mixed reactions among commentators on land reform in Tanzania. Much to the delight of women Members of Parliament, the Land Bill and the Village Land Bill recognise equal access to land ownership and use by all citizens - men and women - and give them equal representation on land committees. The new legislation also prevents the ownership of land by foreigners, and recognises customary land tenure as equal to granted tenure. Other issues covered by the bills include leases, mortgages, co-occupancy and partition, and the solving of land disputes.

900 PAGES OF TEXT

Several commentators took issue with the short time available for consultation and debate in Parliament of the nearly 900 pages of text contained in the bills. Now that they are endorsed, special pamphlets and periodicals are to be prepared and distributed in villages to ensure that people are conversant with the bills' contents. Land offices in the regions will be provided with essential equipment and facilities to prove quality of administration, and functionaries will attend training courses to sharpen their skills on handling land issues more effectively.

Customary ownership of land among peasants and small livestock keepers is now legally safeguarded and recognised as of equal status with the granted right of occupancy. Livestock keepers will now be able to own pasture land either individually or in groups. Rights to own land allocated by Village Assemblies, and land obtained under the Villagisation Programme during the 1970s, will also be recognised and protected. According to Mr Gideon Cheyo, Minister for Lands and Human Settlement Development, "This villagisation exercise should be taken to have been legally implemented and with good will. Problems that emanated here and there [during its implementation] will continue to be solved administratively".

LAND FOR INVESTORS

Investors, including foreigners, will have no right to own land, in order to safeguard villagers' interests. Instead, land will be issued to investors as tenants under special tenurial arrangements. Whereas the time limit on the customary ownership of land will be open, the granted right of occupancy will be for specific periods depending on the nature of business undertaken. This stipulation appears to have been made in response to strong
objections by MP's and non-governmental interests, to the provision of a 99-year lease to investors as originally stated in the Land Bill. Such a long period would effectively have meant giving land to foreigners, their children and their grandchildren. Shorter periods were considered sufficient to encourage investments such as private tree planting operations.

Dr John Shao noted in the Sunday Observer that there is a continued reluctance among policy-makers to accept the principle of private land ownership, a position which he dates back to Nyerere's paper on "National Property" of 1958, despite the move towards privatisation in almost every other sector of the economy. While acknowledging the concerns that privatisation may lead to significantly more foreign ownership and control of the economy, he asks why Africans should continue to be excluded from owning their resource base. It is not yet clear the extent to which the new legislation will increase security of land tenure in practice.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

MP's and NGO representatives cautioned that the legislation to encourage equal rights for women would fail unless attitudes of people changed accordingly. At a seminar in January, Ms Gemma Akilimali of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme criticised customary law, the Marriage Act of 1971, and the Islamic law, accusing them of being the basis of discrimination against women, the youth and children. She argued that, for this reason, it would be a major flaw if the bills were to recognise customary land tenure.

THE SHIVJI PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION REPORT

The approval of the two bills brings to an end a process which started in 1991 with the formation of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Land Matters led by Dar es Salaam Law Professor Issa Shivji. The Commission's report was considered by many as an extremely well researched and argued document. It recommended an innovative model for a new tenure regime which, if implemented, would decentralise land administration and raise the status of customary smallholder tenure in the interests of the people. However academics have argued that the process of policy development has been hijacked by a small elite of senior civil servants who ignored or selectively appropriated the evidence and recommendations of the Shivji report and views of other non-governmental interests. In doing so, they managed to side-step political pressure for reform.

In contrast, Mr Cheyo has claimed that the Shivji report was utilised in the preparation of the National Land Policy in 1995 as well as the two bills, and that the whole policy process was greatly enriched by the
participation of various local groups. Similarly, Grantiana Rwakibarila argued in the Daily News that the reform process "tested and extended frontiers of positive activism". In his opinion there was a fair degree of give and take between the government and non-government interests, and the process has brought state and civil society closer together.

Yet the President remains the custodian of all land on behalf of the people, and for some commentators the fear of "dispossessing" the President lies at the heart of the problem with land policy: "Who is going to take that ownership away from the President and give it back to the people when leadership positions are so dependent on presidential good will?" asks the Sunday Observer. Under the Village Land Bill, the management and administration of land in villages will be placed in the hands of Village Councils under the approval of Village Assemblies. But the Bill also stipulates that the Minister for Lands and Human Settlement Development will be entitled to decide on the amount of land which could be owned by a single person or a firm, based on their ability, and the need for justice and sustainable development. Clearly the central issue of control over the allocation of land rights will continue to feature heavily in forthcoming debates once the new legislation is being applied and its effects begin to impact on the livelihoods of ordinary Tanzanians.

David Edwards

‘UNDERMINING THE VERY CONCEPT OF MULTI-PARTYISM’

In a strongly worded leading article in its March 25 issue the Daily News summed up the exasperation many Tanzanians are feeling about the extraordinary goings on in the major opposition party in the country – the National Convention for Construction and Reform (NCCR-Mageuzi). The article looked back to the high hopes and excitement in the country in 1992 when multi-partyism was first introduced. Many people had grown weary of years of one party rule by the Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the corruption which had penetrated it. The article referred to NCCR leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Augustine Mrema (without mentioning his name) who had 'so mesmerised some people with his populist oratory ... that he was virtually elevated to the status of a messiah .... (But) to their amazement and shock, the NCCR leader 'has been conducting himself in a manner that is making many of his previous admirers thank God and sigh with relief that he was not the victor in the presidential elections of 1995 ..... The article went on: 'the crisis now bedevilling the NCCR and the
"COME AND EXPERIENCE THE UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE...

...of a truly fine Hotel"
slow motion (and sometimes directionlessness) actions of other parties is undermining the very concept of multi-partyism. It is very sickening.'

All this referred to the long running split between Mrema (probably still supported by the majority of NCCR members, who recall his crusade against corruption when he was in government) and the other faction comprising most of the party's MP's and intellectuals under the leadership of Secretary General Mabere Marando.

The High Court in Dar es Salaam gave its verdict on part of this long-running saga on January 27. It declared that Mabere Marando was the lawful Secretary General of the party. The meeting of the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) in Dar es Salaam on June 20 and 21 1997 which had removed various leaders had been unconstitutional. Mr Prince Bagenda, who had been appointed by Mrema as the new Secretary General could be accepted as a lawful member of the party but he could not be Secretary General. The Judge stated that, in view of the chaotic situation in which the party found itself, ordering costs against either side in the dispute would be a burden on innocent party members. Surprisingly, the Mrema faction immediately celebrated the verdict and congratulated the winner; Marando embraced Mrema. People assumed that the party had finally resolved its differences.

SHORT LIVED HARMONY

However, the opportunity was lost and the harmony was very short lived. According to the Dar es Salaam Guardian, Marando wanted the entire original Central Committee (CC) or Secretariat to be reinstated but Mrema was not willing to accept this as the earlier CC had supported him. On February 4 Marando went to court again protesting that the Mrema faction was forcibly preventing his group from entering the party's offices. Marando claimed that he had to buy all the newspapers each day to find out what his chairman was up to. The Guardian described the two leaders as 'politically immature, unprincipled and power hungry'. They had effectively denied members the chance to rebuild their party, it said.

On February 25 Mrema asked the Court of Appeal to dismiss with costs a notice of appeal filed by Marando against part of the judgement. Mrema complained that the party's Central Committee (CC), National Executive Committee (NEC) - which elects the CC - and National Conference had not met for 20 months. Marando, he said, had refused to call the meeting. Marando claimed that the CC was not recognised in the party's constitution of 1995.

Then, very rapidly, the situation deteriorated. Marando invited delegates to a National Executive Committee meeting in Dar es Salaam on March 18. Two days before the meeting, when Zanzibar delegates had already arrived in the capital, he moved the meeting to Zanzibar to the
annoyance of Mrema. Mrema started making an opening speech but then walked out accusing Marando of planting 14 'bogus' delegates and refusing to admit 36 'bonafide' delegates. After his departure 56 of the 62 delegates then voted, according to the Daily News, to suspend Mrema from the party for 'contravening the party's constitution, indiscipline and not co-operating with party officials'. Two days later Mrema convened another different NEC meeting in Dar es Salaam attended by 57 NEC members and they then suspended Marando and other members of his faction. They appointed a new 19-member Central Committee (CC). According to the Guardian, Marando then said that, as only 12 legally recognised delegates had attended the NEC meeting, it had been 'a mere tea party'.

On March 24 a clearly exasperated Registrar of Political Parties, Judge George Liundi, refused to recognise the resolutions passed at both meetings and reinstated both Mrema and Marando to their original positions. He ordered the party to convene a general conference to elect national leaders or risk losing its registration. The General Conference was scheduled for May 2 in Pemba.

G L M Mwamengele, a Guardian reader, wrote to the editor on March 25 begging him to stop publishing news about the NCCR as it 'only served to embarrass every Tanzanian'. He also protested about government subsidies of Shs 31 million a month to the parties when so many Tanzanians were 'languishing in poverty'. He and others wondered whether what was happening, and the apparent preference of the government party CCM for the Marando faction in the NCCR, might be part of a hidden agenda - meaning presumably that the CCM was trying the 'divide and rule' policy.

**STOP PRESS**

Just before this issue of TA went to press the Dar es Salaam Guardian reported that NCCR-Mageuzi Chairman Augustine Mrema had decided to set up a new party to be called 'NCCR-Chama Cha Raia' or 'NCCR - Asilia' and had selected a tentative list of some 19 national leaders. The list excludes all the Marando faction and the party's MP's. The next day Mrema denied the story.
Better news for multi-partyism was the announcement by the Parliament’s Speaker, in January that, for the first time in the history of multi-partyism, he had chosen an opposition MP to head a parliamentary Standing Committee. Dr Walid Kabourou (CHADEMA) became chairman of the Local Government Accounts Committee. The next day the Speaker announced the appointment of opposition UDP leader John Cheyo as Chairman of the Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee. Clearly not understanding how multi-party parliaments work, eleven CCM members promptly resigned from the committees. After a week of deliberation on rules and court decisions in other Commonwealth countries, the Speaker announced that all the committee members had been re-appointed, to the delight of the opposition MP’s. They now have a chance to prove how useful they can be and John Cheyo MP, who is the opposition speaker on finance, has already begun pointing out scandals in government expenditure.

A number of by-elections are pending. At Bunda, Musoma, the former NCCR MP Steven Wassira, who lost his seat on charges of electoral malpractice, resigned from the NCCR on March 19 saying that he could not stomach a ‘politics of squabbles’. He then went on to campaign for the UDP candidate Victor Kubini in the by-election.

Nine by-elections resulting from the nullification of the earlier results have cost over Shs 1.4 billion. After the general election some 130 court cases were filed but 80 of these were voluntarily withdrawn by losers, 4 were dismissed when appellants failed to turn up and 41 were dismissed for lack of evidence.

‘INFANTICIDE’

Further reflecting the exasperation of many Tanzanians about opposition politicians, a leading article in the East African on January 25 mentioned the Tanzania Peoples Party (TPP) of Dr. Aleck Che-Mponda - which has no seats in parliament - amongst whose policies were said to be construction of a bridge between the mainland and Zanzibar, a helicopter ambulance service to take expectant mothers to hospital, the transformation of Tanzania from an aid recipient into an aid donor country and the destruction of all other opposition parties! Given, in addition, the disorder in the main NCCR-Mageuzi party the article concluded: ‘Public disappointment with the opposition has less to do with its antics than with its failure to come up with credible alternative policies. At this rate, come 2000, Tanzania’s opposition risks ‘infanticide’ at the hands of the CCM’.

There are also now two factions in the Tanzania Democratic Alliance (TADEA), one led by the widow of the party’s founder Oscar Kambona and the other by Mr John Lifa Chipaka.
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ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The first signs of success in the battle against corruption are beginning to show. President Maka vowed at the last election that he would take firm action against it but during the first three years of his rule there was little visible sign of this. However, during recent weeks every arm of government seems to have been harnessed in the fight and all ministers and administrative officials are coming under heavy pressure from the President to produce results. Some say that he has his eyes on the general elections to be held next year and that he must clean up his act before then. But, if the political climate continues as it is now he has little to fear in the elections and his victory seems certain. He has two major weapons – the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCB) and both are now flexing their muscles.

The Revenue Authority has greatly improved revenue collection and stopped a lot of fraud. There are a number of recent examples. A wealthy Dar es Salaam businessman has had his private plane and yacht impounded and two bank accounts frozen by the TRA for alleged tax evasion amounting to $11 million according to the East African (March 15). He has filed suit asking the High Court to prohibit the TRA from conducting any independent assessment of his business. The TRA also claims that the number of businesses registered to collect the old ‘Sales Tax’ was only about 4,000 but almost 11,000 businesses had registered under the new VAT scheme which took its place on June 19, 1996. On March 28 it was reported that 38 traders who had evaded payment of VAT had been fined.

A TRA team also recently ambushed ten people who were unloading bags of sugar, on which customs duty had not been paid, from a dhow at Kunduchi beach near Dar es Salaam. Several others who were involved were said to have plunged into the ocean and avoided arrest. On March 17 eight people were charged in court by the TRA with being found in possession of 269 bags of sugar on which duty had not been paid.

According to the Daily Mail the TRA also seized recently eight containers full of TV’s and video recorders destined for the army. It was believed that tax had not been paid.

The Daily News reported on March 5 that two senior officers of the Authority’s VAT Collection Department in Arusha had been suspended pending investigations into corruption. Two days later the TRA caught 12 Dar es Salaam shopkeepers who had evaded paying VAT - they were fined Shs 2 million each.

The Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCB) which has recently recruited and trained 80 additional officers, is also beginning to bare its teeth in the fight against corruption.
A traffic police sergeant in Dar es Salaam was caught when a tractor owner paid him a Shs 30,000 bribe to get his tractor released (it had been impounded for not having an indicator). He was found in possession of 36 driving licenses. Regional Police Commander Alfred Gewe asked those drivers whose licenses had been confiscated by the police and whose cases had not been reported to the police to come and see him in person.

The Bureau is holding a Dodoma Resident Magistrate for soliciting a Shs 50,000 bribe from a widow. Next day the Bureau caught red handed a Dar es Salaam businessman posing as a State House official who had accepted a Shs 6 million bribe to certify a maize consignment (in a warehouse on Nyerere Road) as being of good quality. He agreed not to close the warehouse. Two days later it was learned that the Dar es Salaam Health Commissioner and three of his subordinates were being questioned
about the same case because they had been seen with the alleged suspect.

On March 3 five traffic police officers were sacked after seizing a truck containing stolen bales of clothes and then accepting a bribe of three bales worth Shs 1.2 million to release it.

On March 9 Health Minister Dr. Aaron Chidua announced that 85 of the Ministry's employees including 19 doctors and 37 medical assistants were being investigated for possible corruption. On March 13, a doctor at the Mount Meru Hospital was arrested having accepted a bribe of Shs 4,000 which was paid in notes marked by the PCB. But the Minister pointed out that people were often afraid to report incidents under his ministry because of their fear of retaliation from medical practitioners.

Some 9,700 debtors of the defunct Tanzania Housing Bank have been instructed to repay loans amounting to Shs 12 billion by June 30 or have their houses auctioned. The Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces (TPDF) are reported to have suspended two senior officers and several NCO's following allegations that they demanded Shs 150,000 as bribes in a recruitment 'scam'. Some 8,000 youths were said to have been swindled out of Shs 1.2 billion last year.

Answering criticisms that the PCB concentrated only on 'small fish' its head said that the problem was that nobody was offering evidence on which to bring about the arrest of the 'big fish'. She published the Bureau's telephone and fax numbers.

Minister for Communications and Transport Ernest Nyanda announced on March 4 that five senior officials including the Managing Director of the Air Tanzania Corporation (ATC) had been suspended in connection with massive misappropriation of funds including the embezzlement of Shs 300 million. They were alleged to have been involved in the theft of Jet fuel and tampering with the flying hours on log books.

Representatives of eight donor agencies recently commended Tanzania for the seriousness with which it was fighting corruption. They were discussing with President Mkapa a State House publication entitled 'Tanzania's Third Phase Government's fight against corruption: A brief on achievements and challenges 1995/99'.

The President stated that following the publication of the Warioba Report on corruption the government had:
- removed 20,000 'ghost' civil servants;
- dismissed 800 revenue collection officials;
- retired nine senior officials of the Immigration Department, ten in the Police Force, five from the Prisons Department, six from the Office of the Prime Minister (including Regional Development Directors), and 41 from the Ministry of Works;
- three magistrates had been dismissed, 43 magistrates retired and five court brokers had had their licenses revoked;
five parastatal chief executives had been retired;
- a Finance Minister and his deputy and a Minister of Natural Resources had lost their positions.

But, according to the Daily News, the President said that he would not ‘succumb to the slippery path of being an inquisitor of his predecessor’s government’. The results of the direction to Regional and District Commissioners to conduct public hearings on corruption had been good and legal and administrative actions were being taken by the appropriate authorities.

People are beginning to notice the change.

**CHARGES REVEALED IN ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL**

The preliminary enquiry into allegations of treason against 18 senior members of the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) including four members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, was finally concluded after the alleged plotters had been in jail for 14 months. The latest of four magistrates who have been handling the case, Mr Mshibe Bakari, announced on January 5 that the full trial would begin on January 15. The previous magistrate had given the prosecution a 60-day deadline in December to complete its investigations. There had then been a further delay until, on February 12, the magistrate gave the prosecution 14 days to submit its complete case file. On February 26 the charges were finally read in court.

They alleged that the accused had made statements on November 27 1997 and on other dates which showed their intention to commit treason. The prosecution asked for more time to go through the evidence it had provided to the court and which, it said, it had not had time to study – particularly the parts it considered too sensitive for public consumption which dealt with national security and should be tried in camera. The defence objected strongly and asked that they be given the evidence so that they could prepare their defence. However, according to the Guardian, the magistrate adjourned the case until March 3 and then abruptly left the court without answering the defence counsel’s demand.

On March 3 the prosecution said that CUF had planned to recruit retired soldiers in a ‘Blue Guard’ revolutionary army. According to witness statements (quoted in the Guardian) from two former CUF members who had been expelled from the party for insubordination, a secret meeting had been held at Mbezi beach in Dar es Salaam to plan the alleged coup to overthrow the Zanzibar government.
POLITICAL STALEMATE CONTINUES

CUF announced on March 1 that it would continue its boycott of the Zanzibar House of Representatives until the CCM signed the 18-point peace plan drawn up by the Commonwealth Secretariat (See TA No 62) to end the political impasse. Zanzibar President Dr. Salmin Amour had earlier made it clear that the impasse could be solved only though the House of Representatives. A CUF representative, Mr Abbas Muhinzi, speaking at a one-day seminar organised by the East And Southern Africa Universities Research Project (ESUARP) and opened by Open University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Geoffrey Mrnari under the title ‘Zanzibar Political Plight’, said that, while Zanzibari’s could agree on the Commonwealth proposals, there were certain forces at work on the mainland hijacking efforts towards peace. Prof. Teddy Malyamkono of ESUARP described Zanzibar as the ‘black sheep’ in Tanzania’s political development.

Prospects of a compromise solution suffered a setback when President Mkapa visited Pemba in March. According to the East African he made several defiant speeches that ran contrary to the Commonwealth proposals - which had included one calling for an end to confrontational statements. President Mkapa insisted that CUF must accept that the 1995 presidential elections were won fairly by the CCM, something widely questioned by observers who were there. Western nations had no authority, he said, to tell Tanzania what kind of democracy it should have. There was nothing wrong with one party continuing to rule for many years, as had happened in Britain under Margaret Thatcher.

The first item of business in the March session of the Zanzibar House of Representatives was to debate, again in the absence of CUF members, a speech by President Amour in which he had said, *inter alia* that ‘a thorn goes out where it goes in’. In other words, any political consensus would be reached inside the House of Representatives and not anywhere else. Several CCM MP’s attacked foreign envoys for ‘meddling in the internal affairs of the country’. One MP said that neither the Commonwealth Secretary General nor any foreign envoy could bring about consensus in the Isles. Several MP’s attacked the media for misleading people into believing that the House was meeting to discuss the Commonwealth-brokered consensus. There was no such thing, one said.

A further element of confrontation between CCM and CUF had been reported in the ‘The African’ on February 5. It stated that Zanzibar Attorney General Ali Mohamed Ali was proposing that President Amour should be left to rule for life as he was liked by the majority of the population. President Amour’s second term of office ends next year and he is not eligible, according to the constitution, to stand again. The opposition said that the days of kingdoms and sultanates were over.
Mwalimu Nyerere wrote in the Daily News that 'If and when experience shows that the restriction laid down in the constitution needs to be changed (which in my opinion should be very very rare) the change should not lengthen the term of the current office-holder, who is bound in honour to observe the restriction under which he or she was elected in the first place. Otherwise it is difficult to see how future presidents can honour the new restriction'.

The Tanzania White Paper Committee on changes needed in the Union’s constitution has been debated in Zanzibar recently. The East African reported that virtually all Zanzibaris want to retain their separate identity and do not approve of proposals for a unitary government for the mainland and the Isles. One old man was quoted as saying that he was a Zanzibari first, a Tanzanian second and an African third. The opposition however favours a proposal under which there would be three governments – something opposed by the CCM.

**KISA YA KISASA – 2**

Karibu tena katika safari yetu ya kuvunjari maneno mapya ya Kiswahili. Kama mnajua, Tanzania mwanamume huoa na mwanamke huolewa, basi somo la leo linauliza: kwa nini kichwa cha habari katika gazeti moja la Dar es Salaam linatangaza kuwa ‘Vijana wa Kibongo waolewa Msumbiji’?

*Welcome again to the modern story. In Tanzania a man usually marries (kuoa) and a woman is married (kuolewa). So why did a recent headline announce ‘Dar boys are married in Mozambique’?*


*This is amusing but it is also a harsh comment on social conditions in Tanzania. Strange as it sounds the traditional gender roles are being reversed and Swahili grammar follows suit. Thus the young men of Dar (Vijana wa Kibongo) are married to, rather than marry, sugar mummies (mishangingi) of Mozambique. This occurs on the way to South Africa (Sauzi) where they go to look for a better life (kubangaiza maisha). These guys (mayanki) don’t reach Mandela’s place (Kwa Mzee Madiba) because*
they find what they are looking for on the way. Once they have found a sugar mummy (‘mama mlezi’) they stay in Mozambique (Kwa Mzee Chisano). One other young man of Dar is not surprised that they stay in Mozambique since young men of Dar (Wabongo) like something that makes their life easier (mporomoko).

Sauzi is the new slang for South Africa; it comes from South in English. Also known as Mr Madiba’s place – a nickname for Mandela. Mr Chisano’s place is a reference to Mozambique.

Kubangaiza maisha is a colloquial way of saying ‘to get by’ literally ‘to push life’. Mayanki are the youth who ape American ways, the yanks. ‘Ma’ is a Swahili prefix for borrowed words. Mama Mlezi literally means stepmother ‘the mother of raising’ i.e. not birth. Here it has been juxtaposed to mean sugar mummy since these guys are well looked after.

Bongo is another name for Dar, thus those who come from Dar are – Wabongo.

Mporomoko is something that makes one’s life easier, literally something that slides i.e. like the greasing of a palm.

Mzee Kifimbo is the figurative Uncle Sam of Tanzania. Thus the grandchildren (wajukuu) refer to citizens of Tanzania.

TANZANIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

REMARKABLE RESULTS FOLLOWING PAST MISTAKES

The FINANCIAL TIMES published a thoughtful and balanced 4-page supplement on March 31 in which it wrote that Tanzania was undergoing a transformation from being the standard bearer of African Socialism to an advocate of market driven reform. ‘The results are remarkable’ it wrote, and went on: ‘The mining sector is booming, tourism is growing, sold-off state companies are thriving and the government’s economic discipline has won the praise of the IMF….But erratic weather conditions saw floods last year and threaten a serious food shortage this year. Management is weak, the civil service is inefficient, phone lines are bad, roads are poor, illiteracy is increasing, health care is declining. Corruption is widespread and implementation of privatisation is behind schedule. Above all, Tanzania still has to overcome the legacy of the failed policies of the early post-independence period… Yet, for all these concerns, there is still a sense of opportunities being grasped and potential slowly being realised.
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SHAH TOURS AND TRAVELS - MOSHI - TANZANIA
Shah Tours and Travels is a well established company owned and operated by Harshit Shah well known around the world as 'Mr Kilimanjaro'. The company specialises in mountain treks on Mount Kilimanjaro and nearby Mount Meru. Treks on the mountain start from the company owned hotel Mountain Inn in Moshi and can take either the 'regular' Marangu route or another four routes of varying stages of intensity. Pre or post mountain trek safaris, or beach holidays can also be arranged.

MULTICHOICE SAFARIS - ARUSHA - TANZANIA
Multichoice Safaris is a small but growing safari company owned and operated by Hillary Mwanga. Concentrating on tailor-made private safaris with a distinct personal touch using four wheel drive vehicles and excellent driver guides.

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OYSTER BAY HOTEL DAR ES SALAAM - TANZANIA
BEHO BEHO - MIKUMI - TANZANIA
The Oyster Bay Hotel in Dar es Salaam is a very individual property sited close to the ocean in the Embassy and residential district at Oyster Bay. Surrounded by coral stone walls and lush tropical gardens the 40 rooms and suites provide an ideal refuge from city life and is enjoyed by businessmen, long stay guests and tourists alike. Beho Beho in the Selous Game Reserve is an oasis of private hospitality in this 55,000 sq kms wildlife reserve. Mikumi Wildlife Camp provides up-market safari accommodation within easy driving distance of Dar es Salaam in Mikumi National Park.

THE SERENGETI RESERVES - SERENGETI - TANZANIA
The Serengeti Reserves has operational control of an area of 5000 sq kms of game reserve adjacent to the Serengeti National Park. At the present time there is one permanent luxury tented camp - Sasakwa and a semi-permanent luxury tented camp - Bangwe. It is the intention of the company to expand introducing tree-houses, fishing camps and fly-camping as well as developing permanent and semi permanent camps. The whole operation is multi-functional, high profile conservation and environmentally conscious and committed to community welfare and development.

KEARSLEY TRAVEL & TOURS - DAR ES SALAAM - TANZANIA
Kearsley Travel & Tours was established in Dar es Salaam in 1948 and has developed over the years into a well known and reputable tour operating company who specialise in both northern and southern Tanzania itineraries. It has a large fleet of safari vehicles and coaches, equipped with radio call systems and can handle any type and size of safari. Being based in Dar es Salaam, Kearsley Travel & Tours has become a knowledgeable specialist in the opening up of Southern Tanzania safaris and continues to develop new and innovative Tanzanian itineraries.

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On Zanzibar the article is much less optimistic. Extract: (it is) mid-morning... and a few milling tourists peer from a safe distance at the armed police surrounding Zanzibar town's court. The guns and nervous aggression do not tally well with the tranquil retreat they were sold in the tourist brochures. Yet the police, watchful lest 18 political prisoners... escape from the latest in an endless series of treason hearings, are every bit as Zanzibari as the islands' stunning beaches and fading clove fields... Thank you Pru Watts-Russell and Marlene Yeo for sending this – Editor.

'BONGOISM'

Under the heading 'Tanzania Corruption Company Ltd' Asha Mtwangi, writing in the BBC's FOCUS ON AFRICA (April-June) described 'Bongoism' in detail. 'Bongo', she wrote, 'is derived from the Swahili word meaning brain. If you've got one, explore it, use it and you'll survive. Dar es Salaam is the heart of this new Bongoism.....as you wonder how to beat the snaking lines of patients queuing for the only X-ray machine at the public hospital you have to 'think fast'....Once the magic words have been said you will willingly part with a little something....everywhere you meet middlemen, people with lists of contacts which would turn the yellow pages green with envy. You need a new passport fast. Someone knows someone who knows someone who can do it....with wages of $42 a month in government service and $24 in parastatals it's small wonder people survive by their wits. They have no option....'.

INSTITUTIONAL CORRUPTION

Peter Preston in the London GUARDIAN (March 15) described (with many references to the Warioba Report) what he termed Tanzania's 'institutional corruption' and the 'burning anger' this was causing amongst the people. President Mkapa's efforts to implement Warioba had waned in the face of intransigence from the very leaders the Commission had wanted sacked: too powerful; too entrenched. Would it help, he asked, if the British Government were to tighten up its act and stop the Inland Revenue from giving tax deductions for bribes paid by companies doing business in Tanzania and were to bring British law fully behind the new International Convention on Combating Bribery? It would help a little, he wrote. It would give the system one more squeeze Thank you John Pearce for sending this item – Editor.

THE 'MOST LOVED COUNTRY'

Reporting on Canadian Governor General Romeo Le Blanc's visit to Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Morocco and Tanzania, NEW AFRICAN (April) described
Tanzania as 'by far Canada's most loved African country'. As part of the visit Canada announced $13.4 million of new aid. The Governor General was accompanied by some 100 parliamentarians, businessmen and government officials.

PRIVATE CONDUCTED RESEARCH

Michael Carr and W Stephens in the TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER of March 1999 explained how the new industry-funded privatised Tea Research Institute of Tanzania (TRIT) might be leading the way for other commodity crops in Tanzania where similar changes in structure and funding of agricultural research were overdue. They explained the delicacy of the change from government sponsored research to privately conducted research and how it had proved necessary to close one research station in order to concentrate efforts at the two other stations - Ngwazi in the south and Marikitanda in the north. TRIT has set an ambitious target to raise annual production from the present 20-25,000 tons of made tea to over 40,000 tons in ten years.

PIRATES

Reporting on a workshop on the International Property Rights issue in Zanzibar, THE AFRICA LINK (September 1998) quoted the 'Father of Tanzanian cinema', Mzee Rashidi Kawawa, as lamenting: “Our artists continue being ripped off by pirates....There is art all over the country — in the caves, in the ground, in ruins, in houses, on the pavements, everywhere. ....But our cultural rivals...have been stealing and plundering our heritage, taking them to their museums...pirates and copyright violators are killing artistic creativity...our artists languish in absolute poverty”. The Chairman of the local association of musicians (CHAMUDATA) John Kitime said that a group calling themselves ‘The Big Five’ now controlled all the audio cassette business in Tanzania. The South African Film Security Office is helping in the planning steps to combat the piracy.

SIX GRAMMES OF SEAWEED

‘Seven years ago Murtaza Fazal arrived in Tanzania with a kilogram of seaweed sneaked out of the Philippines. Only six grammes survived the journey’. So began an article in the FINANCIAL TIMES (March 24) which went on to explain how seaweed had overtaken cloves and was now second only to tourism in Zanzibar’s economy. Seaweed contains a gum called carrageenan that is used as a stabiliser and in ice cream, salad dressing, luncheon meat and shampoo. The dried product is processed in Denmark or the USA. Mr Fazal’s company has seen production increase from 150 tonnes
from 150 tonnes in 1985 to 1,800 tonnes last year; Zanzibar as a whole produced 5,500 tonnes last year making it the third largest producer. But Mr Fazal warned that high taxes, poor infrastructure and bureaucratic red tape risked destroying this highly competitive industry. “To export a shipment we have to fill in 21 forms for each of our 120 containers, and I have to sort things out at the port. In America I exported 4,000 containers and never saw the port” he was quoted as saying.

‘THE RISING STAR’ – ‘DRAMATIC REVIVAL’

The FINANCIAL TIMES (February 3) headlined its coverage of a recent international mining conference with the words: ‘Tanzania tipped as the rising star of Africa’. In the TIMES (March 1) the headline read ‘Prospectors beat a path to Africa’s (in this case, Tanzania’s – Editor) new streets of gold.’ And the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (February 28) under the heading ‘Foreign firms rush to tap potential of right rocks, right government’ highlighted what it described as the dramatic revival of the mining industry in Tanzania. It quoted Ashanti Exploration Managing Director Mike Cowley describing Tanzania as the number one country in Africa in terms of gold exploration. “If anybody wants to explore in Africa they will be trying to get a position in Tanzania” he said. The country had one of the best physical policies for mining in Africa. Thank you Ron Fennell for sending this latter item from Hong Kong. Details of the mining boom in Tanzania were given in Tanzanian Affairs No. 62 – Editor.

‘AFRICA’S MOST RESPECTED ELDER STATESPERSON’

Ikaweba Bunting of the NEW INTERNATIONALIST (January-February), reporting on a recent interview with Julius Nyerere recalled that Mwalimu had been the subject of the cover story in the very first issue of the magazine in 1970. ‘Three decades on’ he wrote ‘Mandela aside, Nyerere is still Africa’s most respected elder statesperson’. Extracts from the interview: On the Arusha Declaration: “I still travel around with it. I read it over and over to see what I would change. Maybe I would improve on the Kiswahili...but the Declaration is still valid. I would not change a thing”.

On his mistakes: “I would not have nationalised the sisal plantations. Agriculture is difficult to socialise...the land issue and family holdings were very sensitive. I saw this intellectually but it was hard to translate into policy implementation...”

On the World Bank: “I was in Washington last year. The first question they asked was ‘how did you fail’. I said that we took over a country with 85% illiterates...there were 2 engineers and 12 doctors after 43 years of British rule.....When I stepped down there was 91% literacy and we had trained thousands of engineers and doctors.... As Tanzania’s social services have
deteriorated during the last ten years when Tanzania has been signing on the dotted line and doing everything the World Bank and the IMF wants. I asked them again 'What went wrong?' These people just sat there looking at me. Then they asked what could they do? I told them to have some humility. Humility - they are so arrogant! The conditions and policies of the World Bank and the IMF are to enable countries to pay debt not to develop. That is all! Thank you Peter Yeo for sending this – Editor.

THE BENEFITS OF HUNTING

AFRICA TODAY (January) pointed out the importance of hunting to raise revenue to help with the grave problem facing preservation of wildlife. The article said that if wildlife was to have a secure future it was essential that a value should be attached to it. In 1997 some 950 hunters practised their sport in Tanzania and revenue in excess of $440 million was obtained. This worked out at Shs 42,000 per visitor compared with the Shs 700 per visitor in the case of photographic safaris.

In the same issue there was an article on the success of radio drama in developing public awareness of AIDS in Tanzania – ‘Mashaka is the best known truck driver in Tanzania and his exploits are famous throughout the country. He spends most of his time on the road, rarely sees his wife and has a girlfriend in every town. A few weeks ago he fell ill and Tanzanians are holding their breath, as he grows sicker by the week. He coughs, has rashes on the skin and complains that his friends are avoiding him.... Mashaka is a fictional character in one of the country’s most popular soap operas, Geuza Mwendo, and his plight is the talk of some six million people who listen to the show every week....'.
‘MWIZI! MWIZI!

‘Tanzanians who want to settle scores with old enemies only have to shout Mwizi! Mwizi! Immediately all hell breaks loose and in a matter of minutes their victim is dead’. So began an article in NEW AFRICAN (January) under the heading ‘Necklacing spreads to Tanzania’ (from South Africa) in which it was explained that mobs collect kerosine, matches and old tyres and then set victims ablaze. They call it Mwenge wa Uhuru the flame of freedom, after the Uhuru torch which is raced annually through Tanzania....

‘Many Tanzanians believe that the police are so inefficient that they are justified in taking the law into their own hands.... ignoring President Mkapa’s advice to them to stop killing the little thieves... “You have to deal with the huge looters who are milking this country dry” he said.

‘A DISAPPEARING BREED’

‘A man wearing only shorts and sandals walks along a track. He carries a hunting rifle for protection against wild animals. The sinking sun burnishes his back a deep bronze and sets afame his shoulder-length hair. At his side lopes a lion cub, golden in the evening light. Tony Fitzjohn is among the last of a disappearing breed of game warden on a continent where wildlife is in retreat. Once an assistant to George Adamson, the renowned conservationist, the 54-year old Briton manages Mkomazi Game Reserve. The story of his amazing years in the bush is the subject of a forthcoming film To Walk With Lions starring Richard Harris as the magus-like conservationist and John Michie as his untamed protégé....Fitzjohn has earned himself many enemies; not just sports hunters and commercial poachers, but also local Maasai people claiming ancestral grazing rights at Mkomazi....and powerful figures in the Tanzanian government who could make fortunes if sports hunting were allowed in the reserve’ – extracts from an article by David Orr in the TIMES on January 2. Thank you Liz Fennel for this item – Editor.

EXCITEMENT

Reporting from Toronto, Chris Roberts in AFRICA TODAY (April) wrote about the palpable excitement hanging in the air at the offices of the small Canadian oil-exploration company Canop following receipt of the results of exploration in Tanzania. Canop’s onshore and offshore concession, beginning 60 kms south of Dar es Salaam, if preliminary results are confirmed, would be able to plug into the planned natural gas pipeline of the
SONGAS project led by two other Canadian companies – TransCanada Pipelines and Ocelot Energy.

DEBT

The SYDNEY MORNING HERALD (February 20), discussing the debt issue, quoted the case of Angelus Mtego who is in his final year in school in Ludewa, southern Tanzania. He is 15 but no bigger than the average British 10-year old. His main ambition in life is to go on to secondary school but last year only 10 out of 70 in his year group were accepted. However, for Angelus the biggest hurdle is the cost. His father is too poor to pay his secondary school fees of US$100. The government had to introduce fees because of its huge budget deficit itself partially caused by Tanzania’s vast foreign debt. Thank you John Pearce for sending this from Australia – Editor.

ANAESTHETIC REALITY

Dr R Towey and Dr E Kimaro wrote in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL (December 19-26) about how difficult it was for local doctors to carry out research in sub-Saharan Africa. They wanted to find out the obstacles to safe anaesthesia in outlying districts near Lake Victoria and wanted hard data, not just anecdotes. They spent four months visiting 27 hospitals – sometimes hitchhiking, sometimes buying petrol for hospital cars to get lifts, sometimes sleeping in wards or in bus stations. Eventually they established a computer database with reliable data. Three-quarters of the hospitals had no oxygen or equipment to give safe paediatric anaesthesia. A quarter had no equipment for anaesthesia even for adults. ‘How do they manage? They give bolus doses of parental ketamine; the surgeon does his best without muscle relaxation and the patients’ lungs are not protected by a cuffed endotracheal tube; safe ventilation of the lungs is impossible; and, there is no oxygen….it is a nightmare….yet the cost of upgrading the majority of hospitals to a safe level is $50,000 – the approximate cost of one anaesthetic machine in Western Europe’.

PRIVATISING THE RUFII DELTA

The East African Wildlife Society’s journal SWARA (October – December) joined the increasing clamour from conservationists around the world against the proposed prawn farming scheme in the Rufiji Delta which the government is supporting because it insists that it is environmentally viable. The article said that the 10,000 hectare project would privatisre one fifth of the Rufiji Delta which contains eight of the nine species of mangrove found along the East African coast. Two thousand Delta residents were said to be
seeking permission at the High Court to sue the government for endorsing the project which they say would deny them access to natural resources including prawns and fish which they have always had. The article concluded by saying that experience elsewhere had shown that such prawn farming failed on average after ten years, leaving behind severe environmental damage. Thank you Tony Macdonald for sending this information – Editor.

SAFARI

An article by Darrel Bristow-Bovey in the South African SUNDAY INDEPENDENT (February 14) reflected on the history of what we now call safaris since they began in 1895 with the establishment of the East African Protectorate (Kenya), a British response to German expansion in Tanganyika. The hunter’s trophies - horns, tusks - were tangible evidence of a land bent to the will of the settlers. The cost of safaris had escalated over the years. One safari in the late 1930’s entailed an armoured car, a mobile movie theatre, motorcycle messengers, a generator and a mobile drawing room with a grand piano. The writer went on: 'I recently crossed the border to Arusha, safari capital of old Tanganyika. Once a rival to early Nairobi, it is now in a state of charming disrepair, home to the worst roads and best Indian restaurants on the continent.... The safari may have lost its false Hollywood glamour, but its fundamental purpose remains. It exists to mediate the experience of visitors to Africa – to keep them safe and well-fed yet to give them an inkling, however illusory, of authenticity. Safari takes you to the land, and in it you glimpse a better version of yourself, a dream of your place in the world.....Thank you David Leishman for sending this and other items from the South African media – Editor.

ALBINOS

Michael Okema writing in the EAST AFRICAN (February 15) explained why there are so many albinos – at least two pupils in every school - in the Kijitonyama-Uzuri-Mwanyamala triangle of Dar es Salaam. He quoted researchers at the Ocean Road Hospital as saying that it was because of the matrilineal cultural practises of the coastal Wazigua, Wanguu, Wazaramo and Makonde ethnic groups. Similar genes in parents, usually found among relatives, were said to increase the chances of producing an albino child. As children of a maternal uncle belong to the clan of the wife of that uncle and therefore to a different clan from the children of his sisters and brothers, first cousins may marry, thus enhancing the chances of albino children... There is also the Arab tradition of marriage among relatives so that the family property remains within the clan. The Tanzania Albino Society says that the country has 700,000 albinos. Of the 200,000 in Dar es Salaam 60% are in
Kinondoni, 30% in Temeke and 10% in Ilala. The way people often treat albinos, Okema describes as ‘apartheid in reverse’.

LIFELINE

The Oxford United Football Club was thrown a lifeline after the resignation of its managing director following allegations of fraud according to the WANTAGE HERALD (February 2). Mr Firoz Khan, who came to Britain from Tanzania at the age of 19 and who now owns 1,000 hotel rooms in London, apparently agreed to buy the club and to provide £500,000 to maintain it until the transaction was completed – Thank you Geoffrey Stokell for this item – Editor.

BETWEEN NEWS BUSINESS NEWS

Exchange rates (early April): US$ 1 = TShs 695
£1 = TShs 1,130

Under a new Bill passed by Parliament which is designed to reduce unemployment, employers will be severely punished if they employ foreigners in a variety of jobs after May 1 1999. The government has published a list of 24 businesses whose operation will be reserved for Tanzanians. The list includes retail and sub-wholesale shops, small hotels with up to 20 rooms, restaurants, photography, chicken rearing, carpentry, bakeries, milling machines, laundry, radio repairing, guest houses and bureau de change. In another list of 13 other businesses including consultancy services, cargo handling, catering services, publishing, printing, shipping agencies, supermarkets, garages and cinemas, foreign operation will be allowed only if Tanzanians own 50% or more of the business – Daily Mail and Daily News.

Tanzania is among the top 20 countries in the world in GDP growth. The world economy is likely to grow by 1.3% on average this year but Tanzania is anticipating a growth rate of 5% - Sunday News.

President Mchapama officially opened the Resolute Company’s Golden Pride gold mines at Lusu in Nzega on February 6. It is the country’s first large scale gold mine. The Bulyankhulu (Geita) and Kiabakari (Musoma) mines have been re-opened. As the gold boom in the Lake Victoria region gathers pace, Danish investors have already disbursed $610,000 for a new ship on the Lake; it is under construction – Daily News.
The Bank of Tanzania suspended operations of the Greenland Bank in Dar es Salaam on April 1 following similar action taken at its Uganda HQ.

The TAZARA railway has extended its service to Kitwe in Zambia to speed up the transportation of copper. The new service is expected to reduce transit time for cargo between Dar es Salaam and Kitwe from 10 to 4 days. China has recently provided 24 new coaches and six buffet cars for the line – New African.

Precisionair has bought 3 new 19-passenger planes from the Czech Republic and has started new routes to Moshi, Mafia, Inringa and Mbeya – Daily News.

Ralli Estates Ltd. in Tanga Regions has planted 1,000 hectares of casuarina, teak, eucalyptus and acacia trees at its Mjesani-Bamba estate under its diversification (from sisal) programme – Daily News.

Asian Kilombero M.P. Abbas Gulamali surprised participants attending a workshop on poverty in Dar es Salaam in December when he said that he was glad that Mwalimu Nyerere had nationalised Asian property in 1967. He thought that otherwise Asians would now be subjected to intimidation by the indigenous people who were becoming continually poorer than their Asian counterparts. He said that during the era of Nyerere businessmen like himself were nicknamed ‘Makupe’ but were now respectfully called ‘the informal sector’.

According to an article in the South African ‘Business Day’ (February 15) government bureaucracy and an unpredictable investment climate have led to the loss of at least two $2 million ventures – in 1992 the South Korean Hyundai car company took its money to Botswana and a Middle Eastern farmer who wanted 10,000 h of land to grow mangoes was denied the land by local authorities. The Executive Director of the Tanzania Investment Centre Samuel Sitta was quoted as giving the example of an official of South African Breweries, the majority shareholder in Tanzania Breweries, who was held up for hours at Dar es Salaam airport because he didn’t have a yellow fever vaccination certificate.

Minister of Tourism Mrs Zakhia Meghji has announced that the tourism sector was now contributing 16.5% of Tanzania’s GDP, was earning 50% of its foreign exchange and employing some 35,000 people. In 1998 there were 401,000 tourists compared with 295,000 in 1995.

Three months before the three East African countries are due to sign a formal treaty under the ‘East African Co-operation’ which would harmonise
tariffs, resistance against the plan is said to be mounting in Tanzania. Opposition is coming from businesses, intellectuals and some high ranking government officials - The Guardian.

For the first time in 23 years Tanzania recorded a single-digit inflation rate (9.1%) in January. The Bank of Tanzania said that this was largely due to the government’s prudent monetary and fiscal policies. In December 1995 inflation was 29.7%. But commercial lending rates remain high at 20-25% while savings interest is only 3.5%-7.0% - East African.

Mtwara, the second deepest port in Africa, is to be developed into Tanzania's first modern free port from June this year following the signing of a memorandum between five South African companies and the governments of Malawi and Tanzania – East African.

TANESCO suffered a reverse in its attempts to avoid paying the Malaysian-financed Independent Power Tanzania Ltd. (IPTL) the $3.6 million a month it agreed to pay for electricity (under a 1995 agreement) when, on March 5 the High Court instructed it to pay until the tariff dispute is settled through international arbitration. TANESCO has appealed. Prior to this IPTL was

Strategically set for Business Executives and Holiday makers, Hotel Karibu is distinctively located inside the diplomatic enclave, only a few minutes from most Diplomatic Missions, Shopping Stores and the Indian Ocean Beach. The Airport is 18 km. away and City Centre only 8 km. The hotel has a board room to accommodate 35 people in meetings or private luncheons and dinners. The Oyster Pool is also open for parties.

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Mambo Club where discotheque is open from Wednesday to Sunday.
losing $3.6 million per month in capital charges on the $150 million project. Both sides have agreed to arbitration on the dispute – Guardian.

AID

Pressure is increasing in DENMARK over whether the country should continue to provide aid to Tanzania as 'the economy had not made any headway for the last 35 years' according to a visiting Danish MP. The IMF has approved the third annual loan package of $82 million for 1998/99. Other recent aid includes: USA - $325,000 towards the cost of the national population and housing census. CHINA – $100,00 for famine relief and 45,000 army uniforms. The AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK – Shs 8 billion for the establishment of a small enterprise loan facility. NORWAY – Shs 1 billion for the Basic Education Programme and Shs 2.5 billion for construction of a 66 kilovolt power line from Zambia to provide electricity to Sumbawanga. UNDP – Shs 2 billion for economic management and private sector development. The EU announced on February 3 that it would not continue the programme it has been supporting since the 1980’s to finance repairs to Zanzibar Port because of concerns over the political deadlock and the poor human rights record on the Isles. Some $330,000 was involved. The WORLD BANK and EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK - $45 million to overhaul the Tanzania – Zambia Oil Pipeline. The WORLD BANK has also loaned $105 million for the repair of roads and sewerage systems and the provision of water in eight municipalities. The NETHERLANDS - Shs 12 billion for rehabilitation of hospital diagnostic services.

FOREIGN DEBTS – PROSPECTS FOR RELIEF

It is painfully clear that Tanzania will be unable to make significant economic progress until it is relieved of its crippling external debts, which currently swallow up a third of the annual budget for debt servicing alone. There is ample evidence of the crippling effect that this diversion of resources is having on health and education services and on economic infrastructure. In the last 13 years efforts have been made by the main industrial countries to provide relief from this damaging situation, supported and at times pioneered by the UK government, by offering facilities for rescheduling. The effect of rescheduling was to spread out repayments over a longer period of time, thus reducing the amount due in any one year. It did nothing to reduce debt stocks and it soon became clear that the problems of some of the poorer countries would never be resolved until debt stocks were reduced to a level that could be reasonably sustained without serious
detriment to education and health services and other government obligations. The result was the offer of debt reduction on what was known as the Naples terms (1994), the Lyons terms (1996) and now the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative.

The underlying purpose of the HIPC Initiative was to reduce the debt stocks of qualifying countries to a 'sustainable level' and to provide for the reduction to be distributed among the participating creditors on an equitable basis. The Initiative has, however, come under criticism. The UK government considers the process to be too slow and has pressed for faster implementation. Norway takes a similar view and is working to achieve a reasonable degree of flexibility. In a recent article in the Financial Times, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder disclosed details of a new German policy aimed at intensifying (whatever that may mean) and accelerating the implementation of the HIPC Initiative. The German proposal introduces the idea of total cancellation of debts arising from development assistance in certain circumstances. Since armed conflict and political instability gravely imperil all attempts raise living standards in poor countries, the Chancellor plans to raise at the June meeting of the Group of Eight a proposal to associate debt reduction with a comprehensive strategy for conflict prevention. As the Chancellor's article was marked a 'personal view' it must be read with some caution.

Qualification for debt reduction requires the uninterrupted pursuit of a programme of adjustment and reform supported by IDA and the IMF over a period of six years. However the Boards of IDA and the IMF have agreed to a shortened second stage in the cases of six out of seven countries that have successfully completed the first three years of the qualifying period at the decision point. Tanzania reaches the 'decision point' towards the end of 1999 and it is theoretically possible that Tanzania might benefit from similar treatment by the Boards of the two institutions. Much will depend on Tanzania's performance in the coming months.

$660 MILLION RELIEF

At 'completion point' a final assessment will be made of debt sustainability and debt relief beyond that level will be paid out. In the meantime Tanzania will continue to make crippling annual payments for debt servicing. The damaging effect of such payments has been recognised by the creditor countries and grants amounting to $660 million have been made by bilateral creditors, including the UK to cover three quarters of Tanzania's expenditure on debt servicing this year. It is hoped that this degree of support will be forthcoming in subsequent years as Tanzania awaits a settlement at 'completion point'.

Doubt has been expressed in some quarters as to whether the 'sustainable level' of debt sought by the HIPC Initiative will be low enough
to meet the needs of the poorest countries. Norway has announced its readiness to consider means to achieve a further reduction of debt in the case of poor countries completing the HIPC debt relief requirements. Tanzania is one of 22 countries receiving the benefit of special priority treatment by Norway.

Roger Carter

IN PARLIAMENT

Extracts from Parliamentary reports in the Daily News:

MP’s have been told that a suggestion that there should be a Prime Minister’s question time as in the British parliament is not necessary as ministers respond to MP’s questions on a daily basis.

‘Colonialists’ were accused by Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office Bakari Mbonde of causing disparities in development of Tanzania because they liked some parts of the country better than others. Places like Kigoma, Rukwa, Mtwara and Lindi were ignored and had therefore lagged behind other areas.

Richard Ndassa MP (Sumve CCM) asked the whereabouts of the peacocks, ostriches, elands, dikdik and Zebras which used to be kept in the gardens of State House. Minister of State Jackson Mkwetta replied that several animals had died of old age, diseases, inadequate feeding and changes in weather patterns. Others had been given away as presents to foreign and local dignitaries. The CCM MP for Kwera admitted that he had received four animals. The Minister went on the say that the government would not allow the gardens to become a zoo; Tanzania had ample land to keep the animals elsewhere.

The Assembly has passed the Political Leaders Retirement Bill (1999) which allows retiring presidents, vice-presidents, prime ministers, MP’s and speakers to get a lump sum of 50% of their salaries while in service as their gratuity. Retiring presidents will also be given a house, nine servants and health insurance. Vice-presidents will get six servants, a car and health insurance. Monthly pensions and lump sum payments are also included, with MP’s, for example, getting 40% of their salary as pension and a lump sum equivalent to 20% of two years salary. All payments will be tax free and widows will get 20% of their late husband’s pensions.
Parliament has ratified the Bonn Convention on the protection of migratory wildlife species and the Ramsar Convention on the conservation of wetlands. Amongst migrating wildlife are elephants, between the Mkomazi reserve and the Tsavo National Park in Kenya; wildebeest from the Serengeti to the Maasai Mara; flamingos between Lake Natron at Ngorongoro and Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru; and, turtles and dugongs between Lamu/Mombasa and Tanga/Pemba.

Closing the January-February session Prime Minister Sumaye announced that he had banned the use of cereals in making local brews because of the critical food shortage facing the country. The problem had been caused by the El Nino floods last year which had washed away the crops and the persistent drought affecting the country since that time.

The Dar es Salaam-Bagamoyo road is expected to be built during the 1999/2000 financial year with EU funds according to Deputy Minister of Public Works John Magufuli.

UDP Leader John Cheyo attacked CCM MP’s for changing their minds over the Public Service Retirement Benefits Bill which increased the retirement age from 55 to 60. The Bill had been firmly rejected by the House in November. Cheyo said that the Bill blocked the employment of young graduates and that civil servants over 55 could not learn computers – something essential for Tanzania in the 21st century.

**MISCELLANY**

According to the East African (March 29) the action of some 550 retrenched employees of the Bank of Tanzania in calling for a court order to reinstate them and pay salary arrears totalling $16.57 million, has sent shock waves through state-owned firms that retrenched heavily at the height of the economic reforms in 1993. The High Court ruled last September that the retrenchments were illegal. The employees had previously failed in their battle before the Industrial Court and on appeal to the Minister of Labour.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam Professor Wamba-dia-Wamba, formerly of Dar es Salaam University and now President of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) otherwise known as ‘the rebels’, commended the role played by Tanzania in bringing about peace and stability in Africa – something that his country had never had.
President Mkapa has confirmed that Dodoma will be transformed into Tanzania's capital city. He intended in future to spend most of his time as President at the Chamwino presidential lodge there and to appeal to donors to help in the development of the city. The Ministries of Works, Water, Energy and Minerals and the Planning Commission are to move to Dodoma by 2001 – Guardian.

The Asian community in Tanzania is said to have declined by 50% in the last ten years to some 50,000 now.

Tanzania's Zebedayo Bayo finished third in the New York marathon in November in a time of 2:08:51, only four seconds behind Kenya's John Kagwe with whom he had been running shoulder to shoulder all the way. And the Young Africans football team returned from Kampala in triumph in Jan when it won the East and Central Africa club title. - Guardian

Ohio State University Professor Lonnie Thompson has predicted that there will be no glacier remaining at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro within 30 years due to global warming. Along with this will be a loss of valuable hydrological resources. The professor was in Tanzania to get permission to study ice core records before it was too late. Kilimanjaro was the only place in Africa where this was possible. He proposed to bring six tons of equipment next year, including a light weight environmentally correct solar power ice core drill, to recover three cores and to fly a balloon from the summit to the ground below in order to rapidly transport the frozen cores to freezer trucks. The cores would be shipped to Ohio and he would then share the data gathered with the government and local scientists – Daily News.

Mwalimu Nyerere was presented with a German-made gun at the inauguration of a memorial monument at Mlambalasi (Iringa) on the 100th anniversary of death of the Hehe Chief Mtwa Mkawwa. The Chief took his own life in a cave at Mlambalasi, 60 kms from Iringa, while fighting colonial rule in 1898. The gun was one of 300 captured from German forces in 1891 – Daily News.

The new American Embassy is now open. The original embassy building was destroyed by bombing on August 7 last year. US visas cost $46.20

New radio stations are springing up all over the country. There are now over nine FM stations in Dar es Salaam and others in Arusha and Mwanza offering non-stop music and other entertainment. They include Radio One, Radio Tumaini, City Radio, Radio Free Africa. But rural areas still have to depend on Radio Tanzania – The Express.
A total of 4,525 beetles were planted in the Kagera River last year in an effort to control the water hyacinth which had first appeared in the river in 1987 and had now multiplied all over Lake Victoria – Daily News

During a visit to Tabora Region in February Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye dressed down and suspended Nzega DC Lt. Julius Manyambo and the District’s Executive Director for allegedly being lax in promoting education in their district. He gave them two weeks to explain why they should not be dismissed. He said that leaders who were not capable of implementing directives would no longer be tolerated. The Prime Minister had found the mineral rich Nzega district to be the least developed district in the region. He was said to be angry to find 6,000 primary school children sitting on the floor in a district with plenty of forests. According to the East African the ‘humiliating spectacle’ was televised and reported in the press.

Vice-President Dr Omar Ali Juma insisted recently that the government had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the controversial prawn project in the Rufiji Valley was environmentally friendly and economically viable. Those not in favour were ‘environmental fundamentalists’. Vegetation would not be destroyed because in that area there was no vegetation. However, the project still has to obtain clearance from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) before the Tanzania Investment Centre can approve the proposed investment.

Director of Azam Marine Company which runs five of the twenty boats operating on the Dar-Zanzibar route (and has just launched one more – the Super Seabus III) has stated that he would like to start services on Lake Victoria where there was a severe shortage of such services. However, he was hampered by the high costs of carrying boats to Mwanza. Perhaps the solution would be an assembly plant in Mwanza he said – The Express.

At the (US) African Studies Association meeting in Chicago in November some 50 scholars came together to form a Tanzania Studies Association. The President is Dean McHenry Jnr (he can be contacted at e-Mail number: dean.mchenry@cgu.edu) The number of papers on Tanzania presented at the Chicago meeting (over 40) far exceeded those concerning any other country.

Tanzania has closed its embassies in Angola, Burundi, Holland and Sudan and reduced the status of its embassies in Rome and Kinshasa to reduce costs - Daily News.

Tanzania’s boxing Matumla brothers have triumphed again. Rashid Matumla beat a Hungarian boxer to win the World Boxing Union’s light middleweight title and Mbwana Matumla claimed the WBU international
light bantamweight title before thousands of fans in Dar es Salaam on December 19 - Sunday News.

The government has released Shs 700 million to speed up hearing of more than 1,500 court cases countrywide. 18 additional resident magistrates have been appointed – Daily News

Wildlife exporters have called on the government to increase the number of registered bird exporting companies. Tanzania had exported only 165,000 birds worth Shs 83 million in the last three years but its world market quota stood at 1.5 million a year. At the same time some 2.4 million birds were being killed as vermin each year. They wanted the list of birds banned from exportation to be reduced from 12 species to four – secretary birds, saddle bill storms, wattle cranes and shoe bill storks – Guardian.

OBITUARIES

SYDNEY HERBERT CLAGUE-SMITH (87) died on November 20 last year. He was in Tanganyika from 1936 to 1962, first in teacher training at Usoke, Tabora Region and then at the Alliance Teacher Training Centre at Kinampanda, near Singida. He later became Education Secretary General for the non-Roman missions in Tanganyika stationed in Dar es Salaam. (Thank you Betty Wells for letting us have this information – Editor).

ARCHIE FORBES CBE (86) was the very dynamic Director of Agriculture and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources as Tanzania approached and achieved independence in the late fifties and early sixties. He first came to Tanganyika from Malawi in 1951 to deal with the problem at Nachingwea, where the groundnut scheme had just failed spectacularly. A large number of expatriates had to be sent home and it was necessary to develop a new system of agriculture. The main crop became soya beans rather than groundnuts; eventually it became a profitable crop. He later undertook a major reorganisation of agricultural research, dividing Tanganyika into four zones. He initiated several new programmes in fisheries, wildlife and agricultural education and extension. The massive agricultural training programme which he launched eventually had over 1,000 students studying outside the country. He raised, from the Rockefeller Foundation, the first $100,000 for the planning of a college in Morogoro which later became the Sokoine University. At the well attended memorial service in St Leonards Church, Bledington, Oxfordshire on February 27, his nephew Guy Francis described him thus: He was a workaholic, a perfectionist, a man of high principals, a visionary, courageous, stubborn, didn’t suffer fools gladly…. Some who worked with him considered him too
dictatorial; others (including me – Editor) spent some of the most stimulating years of their lives serving under him. In his final years, though wracked with pain, he brought his energy to bear on the little village of Bledington. He became popularly known as its mayor!

DR. JENNIFER HIGHAM (62) who died of cancer on November 15 was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Foreign Languages at Dar es Salaam University from 1976 to 1974 and a VSO volunteer teacher at the Institute of Foreign Languages in Zanzibar from 1986 to 1990. After this she was a tutor on several education courses for teachers from Tanzania in Edinburgh. Donations in her memory may be sent to the Provincial Overseas Mission, Scottish Episcopal Church, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE.

PROFESSOR HUBERT KAIRUKI (58) the Vice-Chancellor of the Mikocheni International University and formerly Consultant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Dar es Salaam died in February from liver cancer. Dr Kairuki was famed for the free services he provided for the poor, often performing operations all night long. One thousand people attended the funeral.

Father of the nation Mwalimu Nyerere’s physician, Prof. WILLIAM MAKELE (67) died while being treated in London on December 31. Parliamentary Speaker Pius Msekwa led a large contingent of government and opposition leaders at the funeral at Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

MURIEL PELHAM-JOHNSON, OBE (95) died on December 18. Latterly Assistant Director of Education (Women and Girls) ‘PJ’ as she was commonly known, supervised the expansion of girl’s education in Tanganyika between 1939 and 1959. A formidable personality and an intrepid traveller she was a memorably outstanding figure in the pre-independence (Thank you Bill Dodd for this news – Editor)

SIR RICHARD TURNBULL GCMG (89), Tanganyika’s last Governor died on December 21. In 1958 the British Colonial Office decided that Governor Sir Edward Twining’s confrontational style of government was out of touch with the mood of constitutional advance then under way and Sir Richard became governor. He stayed on as Governor General of the newly independent state from 1961 to 1962 when it became a republic. Soon after his arrival in Dar es Salaam, Sir Richard, who was possessed with boundless energy, was seen cycling round Dar es Salaam at sunrise which began to endear him to the city’s inhabitants. He received orders to accelerate the process of independence. He recognised the strength of the local nationalist movement TANU and soon developed a sound personal relationship with Julius Nyerere so that Tanganyika’s transition from colonial dependency to
the status of an independent state was, according to the London Times, a model of peaceful and orderly change. It was described in the Daily Telegraph as ‘smooth, swift and successful’. At the end of his time in Tanganyika he was cheered by a great crowd as he stood in full feathered regalia on the quarter deck of a naval frigate sailing slowly out of Dar es Salaam harbour.

At the Service of Thanksgiving at Minchinhampton, where Mr Simon Mlay represented the Tanzanian Government, the Revd. Canon Michael Irving said that when Sir Richard spoke first to the senior civil servants at Government House he told them that he had come to see off the colonial power. He had a gift of gaining confidence on all sides on any given issue, gaining respect and trust though not necessarily always agreeing with everyone. Julius Nyerere once said “My most serious complaint against the British was that they never locked me up. A reasonable governor is a sufficiently rare phenomenon to unsettle even the most orthodox of nationalists!” When Sir Richard left Tanganyika he wrote: ‘Colonialism is going in Tanganyika, not because it is discredited but because its mission is completed. Colonialism is out of fashion these days and it’s natural that it should be….but it has indeed a splendid job to its credit and we could no more have done without it in our earlier days than we could have dispensed with the homely disciplines of our youth’.

Some years later Mwalimu Nyerere invited Sir Richard and his wife to return for a fortights holiday with him in the company of Archbishop Huddleston and they toured again the country they knew and loved so well.

Amongst former administrative officers in Tanganyika who have died recently are BRIAN WINSTANLEY (77) who was DC Tukuyu (Rungwe) and died on March 12 in Melbourne, Australia, P J (Sam) HUMPHRIES OBE, who was the DC in Korogwe and Iringa and who died in New Zealand and G T L (Jock) SCOTT MC who has been described as the ‘genial and idiosyncratic’ DC in Mafia, Mwanza and Songea and who was a witness at the trial of Mwalimu Nyerere. (Thank you Nigel Durdant-Hollamby and Bill Dodd for letting us have this information – Editor).

**REVIEWS...REVIEWS...REVIEWS...REVIEWS**


‘From the perspective of the world system, Tanzania is poor, insignificant and marginal, a fact reinforced daily by the mass media.’ Yet
in the eyes of Father Felician Nkwera of the Marian Faith Healing Ministry in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania is a ‘Chosen Nation’, dedicated to the Queen of Peace by Pope John XXIII (on Independence Day 1961, coinciding with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception), the ‘Star of Africa’ and the liberator of Southern Africa. So write Christopher Comoro and John Sivalon in this new volume of essays by academics, mainly historians and anthropologists.

Such evidence of spiritual revival, combined with a typically African concern for the physical as much as the spiritual, and for justice as much as piety, pervades this book. It accounts for the confidence of East African Christian leaders today and calls in question the Western secular habit of ignoring the phenomenal growth of Christianity on the African continent. ‘Christianity is no longer an exotic transplant, but is deeply embedded in everyday thoughts and expressions.’ Religion may be regarded as politically incorrect by many who offer their services sacrificially to help Africa, but this view is little understood by Africans.

The essays are divided into seven topical sections, each of which begins with a short analysis of the theses presented. Most essays conclude with a summary of their chief arguments. There is no attempt at a historical coverage, but the sharply localised foci of the essays are dramatic illustrations of the adoption and inculturation of the Christian message by East Africans over the last 120 years.

The most readable contributions come from the pens of Tanzanians. Anza Lema offers a fascinating account of Chaga traditional religion and the Chaga response to the early Lutheran missionaries who showed little interest in their deeply theistic religion. Bruno Gutmann was one of only a few exceptions – the story of his conflict with his colleagues would have made an interesting appendix – but make no mistake, African evangelists are the real heroes of the story, and of this book.

Cuthbert Omari traces the story of the very recent bitter and bloody conflict on Mount Meru within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania – unedifying perhaps, but needing to be heeded by all the Churches if local sectarianism, now appearing disconcertingly often, is not to undermine the universal brotherhood of the gospel. Ecumenical brotherhood is much in evidence in Josiah Mhalagwa’s essay, focussed chiefly on Dar es Salaam, about the spiritual revivals which have been such an East African feature for at least sixty years. They continue today in garb more distinctively African than ever before, tending to be orthodox in doctrine and pentecostal in spirituality.

The growth of the Roman Catholic Church in Ugogo and their relations with CMS Anglicans are traced by Gregory Maddox. Many (but not all) missionaries, Catholic and Protestant alike, ‘did not trust Africans to be true Christians’ – a fault which the famous Anglican missiologist, Roland Allen, tirelessly exposed from 1910 until his death in 1947. The ultimate irony, however, is that those Africans ‘began earnestly to enquire into the
Christian Scriptures they had been given to see where the missionaries had misunderstood the gospel...and in turn insisted that missionary attitudes should be scrutinized in its revealing light.’ They still do, as Lambeth and Vatican Conferences have recently shown. Lamin Sanneh, the West African theologian, is frequently quoted to show how throughout Africa it is the Christ of the Scriptures who is the test of faith and practice.

Other essays focus on the origins of Catholic and Lutheran congregations in Ufipa and Uzaramo. These local and particular studies of African reception and reinterpretation of the faith enable us better to appreciate broader, more systematic histories like that of Elizabeth Isichei (SPCK) - and also suggest that it may be high time for the direction of the old missionary traffic to be put into reverse in the interests of the re-evangelisation of Europe.

Roger Bowen

TANZANIA: PORTRAIT OF A NATION. Photographs by Paul Joynson-Hicks. Quiller Press. 1998. (Tel: 499 6529) 304 pages. £28.00

This is a beauty. Hundreds of colour photographs from the camera of a 27-year old highly skilled British freelance photographer who spent two years on the job and travelled 25,000 miles throughout the country. This book is unlike other Tanzanian tourist travel books. It is Tanzania as a whole and Tanzania as it is now. The book does not devote itself largely to wildlife as most such books do although there are scores of beautiful pictures from the less well known game parks as well as from the Serengeti. Pictures of the Maasai are few; pictures of other Tanzanians are many. There is little on traditional musical instruments and traditional dancing. But, unlike other such books, this one has pictures from every region of the country. The author is interested in places and people and their way of life. Have you ever seen pictures of the miner in Chunya, Mbeya Region, still panning for gold after 50 years, or the spectacular Kalambo Falls in Rukwa Region, or the mobile music maker in Morogoro, or part of the 1.5 km-long diamond pipe at Mwadui near ShINYANGA, or the stone age sites at Iringa, or the rarely visited Katavi Plains National Park in Rukwa or the depth of the dust in the main street of Mwanza or how coffee and cotton and tea and sisal are processed? It is all here in these pages.

The captions and the regional introductions do not quite live up to the high quality of the photographs but you will want to read every one of them. The introduction, which comprises a concise history of Tanzania, is excellent.

Christmas is a long way away but this book would make an ideal birthday present. Or, you could give yourself a treat that you will be able to
enjoy over and over again. It can enrich your library or be placed on your coffee table for the benefit of visiting Tanzanophiles (as the late Bishop Huddleston used to call us) - DRB.


This writing covers the period from 1960 when Julius Nyerere, soon to become President, with his ujamaa policy, was encouraging the formation of small farming socialist communities up until 1998.

The work is built around the history and development of one such ujamaa village. Matetereka, from its formation in 1962, through its time as a member village of the Ruvuma Development Association (RDA) until that organisation’s destruction in 1969, through its growth and struggles with the authorities following this; and to the problems and conflicts brought about by the influx of a large number of newcomers with the implementation of villagisation in 1975, conflicts which continue until this day. There was obviously, at the time of villagisation in 1975, the chance that the whole of the original Matetereka ujamaa group might have been forced to leave all their achievements and move their families elsewhere. This was a fact of life for several of the other RDA villages.

The story of Matetereka was gathered from the ujamaa group in the village where Edwards spent eleven days. It is therefore a story told from their angle. I feel sure that they will have appreciated a sympathetic visitor hearing their story and recording it for outsiders to read. I’m glad that the centre for African Studies at Edinburgh University saw fit to publish it as one of their Occasional Papers.

Together with the Matetereka story, Edwards joins the many writings on the relationship between peasant communities and their governments. In relation to this question in the Tanzania of President Nyerere, the fact that two of his informants, Ntimbanjayo Millinga and Lukas Mayemba were not only involved with the RDA villages but also in local and national politics has provided some interesting details on the lead up to and the banning of the RDA. These largely confirm what I have always believed, that the action of the TANU Central Committee in insisting on the banning of the RDA was in reality moving to put paid to President Nyerere’s concept of ujamaa villages as bodies who took their own decisions on their running and development.

It would be interesting to have the experience of Matetereka from those who were forced into the village through the villagisation programme. Where these newcomers arrived to a village where a group of people had already, through several years hard work, achieved a considerable amount of development, it is easy to see how they might hope to have a share of what
was there. Having been uprooted and moved by a government decision, with no consultation, they could hardly be expected to be in co-operative mood. In spite of that it does seem that at Matetereka efforts of the original inhabitants to try and help the newcomers along a similar development road as that along which they had travelled did seem to have a degree of early success. Essential to obtaining the drive for development through communal working that was the hallmark of the RDA villages was the understanding of the members that they were working for their better future and that of their children.

Ralph Ibbott


This book is listed as No. 54 in a series by UNESCO on Hydrology but, as its title indicates, it also covers limnology (the study of chemical, physical and biological aspects of freshwater habitats). The book is not intended for the general reader; there is frequent use of technical terms, without any glossary, but it forms a very useful source of a great range of information, published articles and books. There are good accounts of the geography, exploration and European discovery of the lakes, their early scientific investigation, geological and climatic history as well as details of changes in lake levels; the catchment areas are well mapped as are bathymetric details (mapping of the lake bottom). There are accounts of the lake sediments and of their biotic components, especially phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Water balance details show up the limited outflow (about 6% annually) of Lake Tanganyika compared with Lake Malawi (17.6%) — enough to generate electricity from power stations on the Shire River.

There is a great deal of overlap in the references and a joint bibliography, rather than one for each lake, would have been better. In fact the whole book might have been condensed. It seems that UNESCO could have been a little more painstaking in its editing but, nevertheless it is a most useful publication.

Brian Harris


This fascinating account of the severe trials faced by the first missionaries sent by the Methodist Church to East Africa (especially during the long voyage from England, the subject of a major part of the book) has been researched by the great-granddaughter of Rev. Thomas Wakefield who
landed at Zanzibar and continued by dhow to Mombasa in 1862. At this time the coast from Lamu to Kilwa, at least, was controlled by the Sultan of Oman and Zanzibar; the British were busy chasing slave ships in the Indian Ocean, and had a Consul in Zanzibar; and, Livingstone had not yet started his last expedition into the interior. Thomas was accompanied by Dr Ludwig Krapf of the C.M.S. and was later joined by Rev. Charles New, the first Europeans to reach the snowline of Kilimanjaro.

I found this ‘look back’ at history extremely readable and even helpful in putting the present into perspective. It is astonishing that the church founded by Thomas Wakefield at Ribe in Kenya is still flourishing. His first wife and baby are buried there.

The book is attractively produced with many line drawings and would make a pleasing gift.

Christine Lawrence

OTHER PUBLICATIONS


This article examines the linkage between citizenship and access to political, economic and social opportunities in Tanzania from the colonial to the present time. Heilman rightly notes that during the colonial period, the country’s population was segregated between Europeans who had full access to economic and political opportunities, Asians who occupied an intermediate place with access to commerce and the professions but were essentially excluded from the political life of the country and Africans who were marginalised in both economic and political spheres. In citizenship terms therefore, Europeans were full members of the society, Asians were a kind of semi-citizens while Africans were simply subjects.

After independence the government adopted a citizenship policy based on the principle of equal rights for all Tanganyikans irrespective of their race but also attempted to redress the under representation of Africans in the civil service, first through Africanisation and later localisation policies. In 1967 the government adopted the socialist path of development, and nationalised the major means of production. With the abolition of private accumulation of private capital and wealth, citizenship as a means of access to resources became largely irrelevant. The policy also created a de facto separation of economic spheres of influence as Africans pursued lucrative careers in the expanding public sector and Asians continued to engage in private sector activities.
The debate over citizenship re-emerged again in the 1990's when the transition from a one party socialist state to a multiparty market economy led to a shrinkage of both the civil service and the public economic sector thus undermining the power base of the African bureaucratic bourgeoisie while creating unprecedented opportunities for the Asian commercial bourgeoisie.

The author argues that economic liberalisation in Tanzania has stimulated economic growth, but it has also heightened private sector competition between Africans and Asians resulting in anti-Asian sentiments among African business people. To prove this point, the writer cites a high profile conflict between Reginald Mengi, an African owner of the Independent Television Network (ITV) and two Asians, Al Munir Karim and Shabir Dewji of Coastal Television Network (CTN) and Dar Television (DTV) respectively over the rights to broadcast the World Cup of 1994. As the dispute went on, Mengi claimed that he had received threats against his life and TV station and the two Asians and nine other persons were arrested. Eventually Mengi maintained exclusive rights to broadcast the soccer matches and the charges against the eleven arrested were withdrawn.

The second example is the incident which took place between 1993 and 1994 in which African street vendors attacked Asian owned shops in the Kariakoo area of Dar es Salaam and in Morogoro. These incidents, according to the writer, show that 'increased economic competition not only created tensions between large-scale African and Asian business but, in some instances, also served as a catalyst for the expression of anti-Asian feelings among participants in the informal sector'. According to the author 'the actions of Mengi, like those of the Morogoro street vendors, conveyed a similar message to the Asian community: despite their formal legal rights, Asians are still a special group whose status is somewhat like that of guests, their ability to live and prosper in Tanzania depending upon the goodwill of their African hosts'.

While agreeing with the historical review and conclusions on the citizenship debate in Tanzania up to 1990, this reviewer remains doubtful about the conclusion drawn from the two post 1990 episodes noted above. Whatever its prominence, a single incident of the dispute over the rights to broadcast the World Cup, is insufficient to support a general conclusion that there was conflict between large-scale African and Asian businesses. Indeed the author had noted earlier on that even in the post 1990 debates, not all African businessmen supported indigenisation of the economy.

With regard to the shop stoning incidents, it is worthy noting that virtually all the shops on the streets where the riots took place are owned by Asians. Accordingly, it is not entirely certain whether the shops were attacked because they were owned by Asians or simply because they were formal tax-paying businesses preferred by the government against non-tax paying street vendors. If the reason for stoning the shops was because they
were owned by Asians, why didn’t this take place until the government sought to bar the petty traders from doing business in the same areas?

Also the reaction of the petty traders after their goods had been destroyed or confiscated is consistent with the response of any aggrieved group of people when the state handles them with strong arm tactics. The victims usually turn to destroying whatever is in their sight.

In my view, the incidents cited by Heilman were primarily economic/class wars between the losers and the gainers in the new economic dispensation and it just happened to be the case that the majority of the gainers were Asians while the losers were Africans. The principle lesson therefore is whether a liberal economic order which enables the few who are already wealthy to prosper even more at the expense of the economically marginalised majority is sustainable.

Bonaventure Rutinwa


When apartheid South Africa banned the African National Congress (ANC) in 1960 Tanzania was one of the first countries to offer asylum and succour to the growing number of refugees. After delving into records deposited in the Liberation Archives at the Fort Hare University, Sean Morrow has been able to present an extremely valuable account of an historic project, enabling him to conclude: ‘It is now possible to aspire to a more subtle and realistic picture of exile as a factor in the history of South Africa’

Now synonymous with the Art and Craft Community Centre in Grahamstown, the name of Dakawa is being preserved ‘to maintain symbolically the memory and spirit of the years of exile’.

The Soloman Mahlangu Freedom College, named after one of the martyrs of the struggle, set up in 1977 on an abandoned sisal estate at Mazimbu, near Morogoro, ultimately housed a population of around 3,500 South Africans and consisted of a large farm, hospital, primary and nursery schools, cultural and sports facilities, a furniture factory and extensive housing. There was however an urgent need for a place where newly-arrived young people might stay until they could be received at the college and the opportunity came in 1982 when the Tanzanian government donated a 2,800 hectare plot at Dakawa, about 55 kms away. The area was undeveloped, isolated, with no electricity or access to sweet water or building stone; it was flat and difficult for the installation of piped water or a sewage system. During the rainy season it turned into a sea of mud. The exiles were badly
affected by malaria and other tropical diseases while the experience of exile caused some refugees to take refuge in alcohol and drug abuse.

Ideally, Dakawa was intended as a centre for the orientation of up to 5,000 youths – a model community for a future South Africa. There were plans for agriculture, water reticulation, roads and various welfare facilities. But in 1990 there were only about 1,200 South African workers there. Not all arrivals were students and there was a widespread perception by ANC cadres of Dakawa as a ‘dumping ground’ – the impression could not be avoided that the rehabilitation centre was virtually a penal settlement.

Attempts were made to develop the farm but the land was heavily overgrown with bush and there were drainage and irrigation problems - three quarters of one sunflower crop was eaten by rats, while roaming Maasai stock, wild pigs and, on one occasion, elephants from the Mikumi Game Reserve devastated crops.

Another issue was the relationship between the ANC and Tanzanian workers. In the context of Tanzania the South Africans were comfortable, even privileged, by comparison with their generally impoverished hosts, on whom they relied for labour. The leadership complained that the South African labour force was ‘very unstable and unreliable’. There were numerous relationships between South African men and Tanzanian women and there are offspring of mixed parentage in the area today. There was also an alleged tendency (‘vehemently rejected by the more socially and politically conscious’) for some South Africans to ‘look down’ on Tanzanians as being ‘less sophisticated and poorer than themselves’. As was to be expected amongst a population from a traumatised country, there was also social dislocation and personal maladjustment, leading at times to criminality and violence. Generally speaking the morale was low.

A vocational centre gave instruction in carpentry, plumbing, bricklaying and electrical installation; the leather factory made shoes, belts, and bags and there was a garment factory. Much help was received from Holland, Eastern Europe, the German Democratic Republic and Scandinavia with Western aid arriving much later.

According to Sean Morrow: ‘The spirit of Dakawa is embodied in individuals who moved to Grahamstown. The fact that it was a much wider endeavour than an arts centre alone is not well-known beyond the memories of those exiles who were based there.

Now, when the constant flow of refugees is a global reality, it is salutary to obtain an insight such as this into the consequences, so often tragic, of unjust and violent measures imposed by unscrupulous people in authority.

John Budge

This study, carried out in 1996, looked at a protection programme in primary schools in two districts of Mwanza, which had as its aim the protection of adolescent girls against sexual exploitation. The role of the Guardians (walezi), designated female teachers, is to help young women in cases of violence or sexual harassment, and to give advice about problems of sexual health, since the sexual exploitation of female pupils by schoolboys, young men and teachers is common. The programme of protection has already drawn a good deal of attention to this issue among the wider public. One of its most important initial effects has been to lift the veil of secrecy which hides sexual violence; teachers, among others, have found it more difficult to conceal such abuses than in the past. Even so, the fact that the majority of Guardians and other teachers were opposed to all sexual activity among schoolgirls limited the possibilities of encouraging contraception, and teaching about the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.

Pat Caplan

PAGAN PRACTICES AND THE DEATH OF CHILDREN: GERMAN COLONIAL MISSIONARIES AND CHILD HEALTH CARE IN SOUTH PARE, TANZANIA. N T Hakansson, Uppsala University. World Development. Vol 26. No 9. 1998. 9 pages. At the beginning of this century German Lutheran missionaries implemented a successful campaign to lower child mortality without the aid of modern medical technology but through their understanding of indigenous ideas, co-operation with indigenous healers and through co-operation and mutual learning. This paper quotes, from archives, case studies on infant feeding and birth procedures in South Pare 90 years ago.

ACCEPTABILITY AND USE OF CEREAL-BASED FOODS IN REFUGEE CAMPS; CASE STUDIES FROM NEPAL, ETHIOPIA AND TANZANIA. Catherine Mears with Helen Young. Oxfam. 1998. 135p. £12.95


essays which make up the book to vent his frustration against the establishment for the harsh punishment it meted out to students at the Ardhi Institute after they had been on strike. The East African says that the book has striking similarities to 'Animal Farm'. It ridicules ‘the political establishment and politicians and their notorious greed and disregard for the public good’.

SWAHILI ROUGH GUIDE PHRASEBOOK. 179p. 1998. £4.00. Obtainable from the Africa Book Centre.

FOREIGN AID AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN TANZANIA. Timothy S Nyoni. World Development. Vol 26. No 7. 5 pages. This highly technical paper uses cointegration technique and an error-correction model to examine the relationship between foreign aid inflows and the real exchange rate and assess the potential for aid-induced ‘Dutch disease’ (defined as the undesirable effects of aid). It found that aid inflows, increased openness of the economy and devaluation of the local currency caused real depreciation while increased government expenditure caused real appreciation. Foreign aid has not caused ‘Dutch disease’.

ANY SUBSCRIBERS IN TAIWAN?

I believe my subscription for Tanzanian Affairs needs renewing. Please send the magazines to my new Taiwan address. Should there be any other subscribers to Tanzanian Affairs living in Taiwan I’d love to know. We could get together and brush up our Kiswahili!

Catherine Lee
St. James’ Episcopal Church, 23 Wu-chuan West Road, 403 Taichung, Taiwan, ROC.

Sorry. I don’t think there are any others yet. Your subscription means that we now have subscribers in 37 countries around the world – Editor.

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

……..Am just back from Dar and Dodoma. Hotels in central Dar are becoming a rare breed – apart from those two millionaires hideouts. Motel Agip has now closed down, to add to the Twiga, Mawenzi and Skyway. And
as for the Kilimanjaro……. I am hoping to join a Tony Janes tour this year – probably the coast safari, so that I can stay on in Zanzibar for an extra day or so. We really are spoilt for choice by Tony. I want to do all of his tours!

I have just read Ben Rawlence’s piece in Tanzanian Affairs No. 62. Even greetings are changing in Tanzania. It’s now streetwise to say “Mambo” or “Vipi”. To which the reply is “Poa”. Gone are “Habari” and “Mzuri!”

David Leishman, Westdene, South Africa

(For the benefit of readers like me whose Swahili is out-dated I asked our contributor on Swahili, Ben Rawlence, to elaborate on your last paragraph. He responded as follows: The greetings quoted are commonly used but informal. A common greeting is ‘Hujambo’ – a contraction of ‘huna jambo’ (do you not have a problem? Of you don’t have any problem?). You are using a double negative to confirm that you don’t have any problems. ‘Mambo’ is the plural of ‘Jambo’ and is a short way of saying – ‘problems?’ The questioning is determined by a rising intonation. You can say ‘Mambo’, or Vipi Mambo’ (how are the problems?) or ‘Mambo vipi?’ The reply is ‘Poa’, which is that highly popular (amongst the young) English word ‘cool’. Or you can reply ‘Safi’ meaning ‘clean of problems’ – Editor).

THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT OF 1998

With reference to the report in Tanzanian Affairs No. 62 on the Sexual Offences Act, according to the report of the General Police Commander, Mr Omar Mahita, raping cases increased from 1,181 in 1997 to 1,542 in 1998 (23.4%), sex with under age girls cases increased by 26% and sodomy cases by 13.6%. There may be many other cases which were not reported. The reasons for this are said to be the introduction of foreign culture, poor child bringing up, more broken marriages, children brought up without proper parental care, women wearing short dresses and the influence of drugs and alcohol.

While these reasons may have played a part it seems that the real cause of the problem has not been explained. Many people have been talking about a recent case where a person who held high positions in the government and the parastatals and was involved in church matters was caught in the bedroom with his own daughter. Psychologists may have something to say about it but I agree to the view that the culture and norms of Tanzanians are no longer observed. People used to fear society and government laws but both these have now lost power. What do your readers think about the new Sexual Act?

John Orasa, Dar es Salaam

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